

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In a broadband communication network having multiple access connectivity over a subscriber link with customer premises equipment, a method for providing fail-safe life line telephone connectivity as a backup service between a subscriber server ~~including a telephone~~ and a central telephone network facility in the event of any malfunction, power outage or equipment failure, comprising:

transmitting voice, data and/or signaling information on the local broadband communication network between the subscriber server and the central telephone network facility;

detecting a fault in the broadband communication network that causes the subscriber link to be lost; and

A3 maintaining telecommunication service for at least one customer premise telephone unit by switching a connection from the telephone unit to a broadband communication network subscriber link interface directly connected through a subscriber line to -a- the central telephone network facility line when a fault or failure is detected in the broadband communication network in order to provide one or more of the following: battery power, ringing, decoding, out-of-service testing, supervision of subscriber terminals, normal telephone service .

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting a fault in the broadband communication network comprises listening for a status signal from the broadband communication network at the subscriber server and determining that a network fault exists if the status signal is not received in a threshold period of time.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting a fault in the broadband communication network comprises listening, at a location in the broadband communication network, for a status signal from the subscriber server and determining that a network fault exists if the status signal is not received in a threshold period of time.

4. (~~Currently~~ amended) ~~In a broadband communication network, a~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~for providing fail-safe telephone connectivity between an analog subscriber telephone and a telephone network facility, comprising~~ maintaining telecommunication service by connecting ~~the~~ an analog subscriber telephone to the central telephone network facility through a different connection bypassing certain multiplexing components in ~~different from a connection between a subscriber server and~~ the broadband communication network.

5. (~~Currently~~ amended) In a broadband communication network including a central telephone network facility having multiple access connectivity over a subscriber link with customer premises equipment, a method of providing fail-safe life line telephone connectivity with ~~between~~ a subscriber telephone unit on customer premises in the event of any malfunction, power outage or equipment failure, ~~and the broadband communication network~~ comprising:

providing a primary digital telephone connection via a subscriber server connected to the broadband communication network; and

transmitting voice, data and/or signaling information over said primary digital telephone connection to the customer premises equipment; and

maintaining telecommunication service for said subscriber telephone unit in order to provide ~~providing~~ a backup analog telephone connection from the subscriber telephone unit through the subscriber link directly to the central telephone network facility bypassing circuitry in the subscriber server when a fault or failure in the subscriber server occurs.

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6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the primary digital telephone connection comprises connecting a modem at the subscriber server to the telephone network facility.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein providing the backup analog telephone connection comprises connecting an analog telephone to the telephone network facility on the same line connecting the subscriber server and the telephone network facility, the analog telephone using a different frequency spectrum than the digital telephone.

8. (~~Currently~~ amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising detecting fault in the subscriber server by identifying a failed polling process of sending a status signal over a subscriber line.

9. (~~Currently~~ amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ said life line connectivity is provided when a fault in the subscriber server is a power failure at the subscriber server.

10. (~~Currently~~ amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ said life line connectivity is provided when a fault in the subscriber server is a modem failure.

11. (~~New~~) The method according to claim 5, wherein providing said backup analog telephone connection enables access to one or more of the following: battery power, ringing, decoding, out-of-service testing, supervision of subscriber terminals, normal telephone service.

12. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein providing a backup analog telephone connection comprises connecting a subscriber telephone capable of pulse or DTMF dialing to the central telephone network facility through a different connection bypassing certain multiplexing components.

13. (New) The method according to claim 1, comprising maintaining telecommunication service by connecting a subscriber telephone capable of pulse or DTMF dialing to the central telephone network facility through a different connection bypassing certain multiplexing components.
